



# WINGTalker

FALL 2003

MAG-42 Family Readiness Newsletter

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## Word from the CO



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since our last newsletter we have been blessed to have 52 of 62 Marines from the Headquarters and nearly 1/3 of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 42 return home to the greater Atlanta area. They have done their duty and performed superbly in augmenting the 3<sup>RD</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing and the I Marine Expeditionary Force in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are very proud of them! Anne and I also wish to extend our great thanks to them and to the spouses, families, parents and loved ones of these wonderful Marines. Our job as Marines is to fight. We fight in the air, on the ground and at sea in every clime and place to which our nations calls us. We fight not as individuals but as part of a successful Marine Corps combined arms team on a joint battlefield where all Americans and invited coalition partners are welcome. Whether deployed overseas or not, we are all part of that "total active and reserve force" team that enables victory. No part of the Marine Corps, the U.S. military or the nation can win victory alone. It is truly a team effort in every sense of the word. Without your love and support these Marines could not have worked and fought so well, won so decisively, so quickly, with so few coalition casualties and still accomplished all the other global presence and support demands required of the nation and the Marine Corps. These proud Marines have written a new page of history for our great Republic, added a new battle streamer to the Corps's Colors and given an entire region and people an opportunity for freedom for their nation and their posterity. As I said, we are all proud of those MAG 42 Marines who went forward our many sites and also those who stood ready to deploy with their squadrons on very short notice. It is an honor to serve alongside such dedicated Americans and patriots.

Let me update you on the projected status of those still deployed overseas and in Southern California. The timing of their return, demobilization from 3<sup>rd</sup> MAW and return to MAG 42 for deactivation are linked with the security situation in the region and the gradual withdrawal of almost all Marine forces from the theater between now and December 2003. For those deployed in the United States and overseas, each remaining Marine continues to fill a critical billet. As the Marine Corps conducts a phased withdrawal, our remaining personnel will be withdrawn, demobilized and returned to MAG 42 for deactivation. We have already received four waves of returning personnel from the Headquarters Staff and MALS 42. We are expecting additional groups of MALS 42 personnel and some of the remaining 10 Headquarters personnel to return in November and December as 3<sup>RD</sup> MAW squadrons and units return to base and their service is no longer required. A select number of MALS 42 personnel will be required to remain on active duty until February 2003. The specific by name lists are under development by the MALS 42 based on 3<sup>RD</sup> MAW capability and personnel requirements.



As our Marines return, we are conducting an honoring ceremony for these small groups to acknowledge their service and celebrate their initial homecoming. Our intent is to hold a MAG-wide Honoring Ceremony and celebration the morning of the first drill weekend following the return of all our Marines. We will let everyone know regarding the details via your squadron chain of command and Key Volunteer network.

Here is an outline of some upcoming events:

- 11 & 12 Oct--- Six Flags Over Georgia (SFOG) Marine Corps Family Day. Free admission (\$30.00 admission/person free) to all active and reserve families (up to 5 with ID card, more immediate family members with Form 1172). The primary day for MAG 42 is the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. The 12<sup>th</sup> is an alternate day. Show your ID card at the Will Call Window to receive your tickets. Wear something Marine Corps to show your colors and come join us. The SFOG "Halloween Fright Fest" will be in full swing!
- Toys For Tot Program---Begins 1 Oct 03 through 15 Jan 04. We run the largest program in the nation for over 120,000 children. Please consider sponsoring events or volunteering your time in support of this worthwhile yearly cause. For information on volunteering or sponsoring events please contact CWO4 Ryman at
- 1 Nov---USMC 228<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball 1830-0100 at the Cobb Galleria Center. Cost varies by rank. Guest tickets are \$65.00. Reservations and Tickets are available through the squadron representatives or by Contacting GySgt Nothstein at 678-655-. All active, reserve and retired Marines and their guests in the greater Atlanta Metropolitan Area are invited.
- TBD Honoring Ceremony---Official MAG wide welcome home ceremony and celebration to honor the service of our returning Marines. It will be held the morning of the first drill weekend following the return of all our Marines.
- For those spouses and parents of Marines interested in becoming Key Volunteers for your squadrons/units, we will be holding a Key Volunteer (KV) Training Day in January 2004 at MAG 42. The date is TBD based on sign-up response. Please contact your unit Key Volunteer Coordinator (KVC) or Family Readiness Officer (FRO).

Finally, we have a MAG Website that contains valuable Family Readiness Links and information. It is located at <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mag42/>. Due to our distributed nature with families located in all parts of the country, this website will be an invaluable tool for passing information and staying connected with one another. Please check it out and give us any ideas for ways to improve the content and make it more useful to you!

Thank you again for all you and your families do for our great Republic, our Corps and your Marines! May God bless you!

**Key Advisor**

**Anne Hanifen**

**ACE HQ**

**Sabre Johnson**

**VMFA 142**

**Terry Roberts**

**HMLA 773**

**Michelle Dorsey**

**MALS 42**

**Sherri Shropshire**

**4<sup>th</sup> LAAD**

**Wanda Teichert**

**OIC**

**Lt. Col. Place**

**Assistant OIC**

**Major Cross**

**Admin Chief**

**GySgt. Jennings**

## **KVC Corner**

We'd like to extend a warm welcome home to our Marines and Sailors who have returned from service and thank them and their families for all their sacrifices and accomplishments. It is wonderful to have so many MAG 42 families reunited after long separations from their loved ones. Although many have returned, let us continue to pray for and support those and their families who continue to serve far away from home.

Our Peace Time/War Time and Family Readiness teams have done an outstanding job assisting families with deployed Marines and Sailors. They continue to be a ready source for information and aid to all MAG 42 family members. As mentioned in the past, the ratio of key volunteers to the number of families they support, however, remains large. We are anxious to recruit more Key Volunteers to the Network. Any adult immediate family member of the active duty or reserve Marine (parents, sister, brother etc.) is eligible for the training. Our next Key Volunteer training course will be held on a Saturday in January 2004. It only takes a day to complete the training and begin serving as a volunteer. Please contact your unit Family Readiness Officer or your unit Key Volunteer Coordinator if you are interested in attending the course. We will also have a sign up sheet available at the MAG 42 Christmas party.

On a separate note, we'd like to thank all those who helped decorate for the homecoming of our returning service members. The artwork by family members and local area school children displayed throughout the MAG 42 building is heartwarming to see. In addition, we are deeply grateful to Mrs. Deloris Glover, who made and donated dozens of beautiful yellow and patriotic ribbons that adorn the hangar hallways along with all of Halsey Avenue.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Six Flags over Georgia Family Day event on October 11&12!

If anyone would like to help out or offer ideas, please give me a call at 770-578-1064.

Sincerely. Anne Hanifen

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## **PEACETIME WARTIME SUPPORT TEAM**

Greeting From the PWST team! During June and July we have been very busy receiving many of our MAG-42 Headquarters Marines and our MALS-42 Marines back from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Because the Marines have been coming back in small groups, we have been holding Honors Ceremonies, complete with color guard in the hangar as each group returns. In order to render special recognition to all of our returning Marines on July 15<sup>th</sup> we had media coverage for one of our Honors Ceremonies. As a result, our returning Marines were the front page story in the Marietta Daily Journal's 17 July edition, they received a nice write up in the

Atlanta Journal Constitution's Cobb section, 24 July edition and had several Marines interviewed for a story about their service and return which aired on the Fox 5, five o'clock news that night. As our Marines continue to flow back, the PWST and KV network will do our best to keep you informed. When all of our Marines are "Safe On Deck" back at MAG-42, we are planning a Great Honors Celebration for all!! We will know soon what dates and get the word to all families!

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## GREETINGS FROM MALS-42

Greetings MALS Families,

Big news is that we are starting to trickle back home. We three of the demobilization is complete. Wave four is slated for late October, in order to allow them to be back in time for the Birthday Ball. Wave five is slated for late January in order to have the last Marines home in Atlanta before the end date of their orders. All marines are aware of what wave they are on. If you or your families are in need of assistance, please contact your Key Volunteer.

Semper Fi !  
LtCol. Harmon

### **Family Services**

**678-655-6735**

### **Navy/USMC**

### **Relief Society**

**678-655-6623**

### **TriCare Coordinator**

**678-655-5314**



**Families welcome MALS Marines back home.**

**Group Chaplain**

**Chaplain Butler**

**678-655-6472**



## **Chaplain's Corner**

I recently returned from my two weeks active duty and received a warm welcome home. My wife and daughter met me at the airport, took me out to eat for supper, and made my homecoming a time of great comfort. And I was only gone for 16 days.

Many of our fellow Marines and Sailors have been gone much longer than two weeks. They have endured hardships and made sacrifices in order to fight the war on terrorism and free a people who have lived lives of virtual slavery. Whether they were in Iraq or in other places in support of the war in Iraq, they have given of their time and lives in sacrificial ways. Now many of them are returning. It is my prayer that every one of them will receive a wonderful welcome and reunion with family, friends, and loved ones. I hope they will have a good meal and be treated as heroes. It is my desire that we, their friends and fellow Marines, will do what we can to make their return to normalcy as easy an adjustment as possible. It is my intention to be available should any of our personnel need spiritual conversation or simply to talk with their chaplain.

Please welcome our personnel home. Thank them for their sacrifice. And to all of our MAG personnel, thank you for your efforts and your willingness to protect the line that invisibly exists between the freedom we know and those who would destroy all we hold sacred and pure. May God bless you with peace and comfort this day.